

## **ETA Starter Kit**

### ❖ **Plan and Practice**

- Find a suitable site
- Gather equipment that will work...it doesn't have to be all high dollar purpose-built stuff!
- Develop a designated team familiar with ETA setup and procedures
- Practice, practice, practice!
  - Set up
  - Triage
  - Decon
  - Treatment outside the facility

### ❖ **Develop a Patient Tracking System**

- This could be based on a quality triage tag or any other effective system
- Make your own!
  - Pre-print patient wristbands with sequential numbers and matching stickers for paperwork and belongings
  - Numbers can be used even if patient identity is not immediately established

### ❖ **Prepare for Gross Decon**

- Doffit kits are not usually cost prohibitive, but you can make your own
- The janitor's closet has most of what you need--rolls of strong plastic garbage sacks!
- Garbage sacks are used to contain contaminated clothing and patient valuables
- Dark sacks can also be used as modesty coverings when appropriate holes are cut in them

### ❖ **Find a water source**

- Warm water is preferred, but cold will do if it's all that's available
- Go back to the janitor's closet or out to the landscaping shed and get garden hoses to bring the water where you need it

### ❖ **Prepare for secondary decon**

- Once again, raid the janitor's closet or the kitchen
  - Buckets
  - Big sponges or soft brushes for scrubbing
  - Mild soap—liquid dish soap is most common, Dry decon-talcum powder, flour, or baking soda

### ❖ **Prepare for non-ambulatory decon**

- We need to keep from lying non-ambulatory patients in the contaminated water on the ground
- Purpose-built roller systems are great for moving back boarded patients through the decon line
- Saw horses work great too...and they are way cheaper than rollers

### ❖ **Be ready for wet patients on the cold side of the decon line**

- Doffit kits come with disposable towels and gowns
- Use hospital towels, blankets and gowns
- Stockpile donated clothing
  - Good for post-decon dressing
  - Also good to have for day-to-day, non-MCI patients whose clothes were cut off after an MVC and who don't want to go home in a gown

### ❖ **If all else fails, think outside the box for decon operations**

- Commandeer suitable decon areas:
  - School locker rooms
  - YMCA/YWCA
  - Car Washes
  - Fire engines with fog nozzles

### ❖ **Preplan for holding areas during an event--and not just for victims!**

- Warm, dry place for the Clean Treatment and Transport Area
- Daycare for children of staff
- Family holding area for victims' families to wait for patient updates
- Media area for reporters waiting on the latest news about the event